

Application No. 09/898,857
Amendment dated August 1, 2005
Reply to Office Action of July 8, 2005

Docket No. 1221-4733

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Status of the Claims

Claims 31 and 47 are pending in this application. Claim 31 is allowed and claim 47 is rejected. By this amendment, claim 47 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 47 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,596,366 to Takashima et al. ("Takashima").

As indicated above, claim 47 has been cancelled rendering the rejection directed to this claim moot.

As a result, Applicants note that the application includes only allowed claim 31 and believe that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

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AUTHORIZATION

No petitions or additional fees are believed due for this amendment and/or any accompanying submissions. However, to the extent that any additional fees and/or petition is required, including a petition for extension of time, Applicants hereby petition the Commissioner to grant such petition, and hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees, including any fees which may be required for such petition, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500 (Order No. 1232-4733). A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: August 1, 2005

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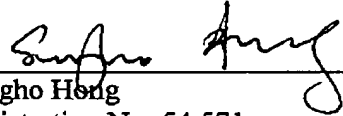
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